

## Objective 17: Reduce Hospital Emergency Department Visits from Asthma

Maryland SHIP Vision Area 3: Healthy Physical Environments  
Tools, Resources, and Promising Practices  
updated March 2012



### Information, Facts and Figures

[The Agency for Healthcare Quality & Research Workbook](#)

This 39-page workbook will help State leaders develop the information needed to support quality improvement efforts for asthma-related health care. The written exercises help users begin to think about effective partnerships, assembly of State data, questions to raise about interpretation of the data, and quality improvement techniques.



[The Agency for Healthcare Quality & Research—Childhood Asthma](#)

Resources for schools, clinician's and parents to promote asthma friendly school environments and other toolkit resources.



[American Lung Association—Healthy Air](#)

Includes information about healthy air and ways to work towards air quality improvement.



[CDC National Asthma Control Program](#)

CDC provides funding for and oversees institutions or organizations in each state to implement policy and control programs to achieve improved treatment, management and control of asthma in the US, through conducting surveillance; carrying out scientifically proven interventions, education and communication, researches; and fostering partnerships.



### Maryland Services and Hotlines

[University of Maryland Pediatric Asthma Information](#)

Provides linkages to the Pediatric Asthma Program at the University of Maryland Medical Center.



[Greater Baltimore Asthma Alliance](#)

Provides information on the Greater Baltimore Asthma Alliance and tips on starting similar organizations in other communities.



[MD Asthma Control Program](#)

The program aims to reduce asthma disease prevalence, complications and emergency department visits, improve health outcome, self-management quality and overall wellbeing for asthma patients through implementation of community-based health care and services, education programs and active surveillance, with a focus on addressing outcome disparities.



### Promising Practices

[School Checklist for Asthma Risk](#)

Provides a checklist for schools to assess their asthma risks.



[School Nurse Assessment Tool](#)

A school nurse assessment tool to determine if the Asthma Action Plan is working for the student.



[Breath Mobile](#)

The Breath Mobile is a custom-built pediatric asthma and allergy clinic that travels to almost two dozen schools, providing ongoing asthma and allergy care to children. In operation since 2002, when the University of Maryland Children's Hospital created the East Coast's first Breath Mobile. The traveling asthma team includes a pediatric allergist or pulmonologist, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a registered nurse and a driver.



[School-based Asthma Interventions](#)

School based interventions engage teachers, parents, students and school nurses and empowers these individuals to recognize the early warning signs of an attack. This approach gives asthmatic children improved access to asthma medication and treatment. Additionally, the intervention strives to make the school environment free from asthma triggers.



[Physician Asthma Care Education \(PACE\)](#)

Developed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute PACE is a two 2.5 hr continuing education seminars for primary care doctors to increase communication skills, diagnosis capabilities, and treatment knowledge of asthma. Patients of PACE physicians use less ED services and have less asthma symptoms.



[Asthma Relief Street Program](#)

(under “programs”)

Use of asthma education curriculum in primary care settings of the different Federally Qualified Health Centers of Urban Health Plan, Inc, and in Urban Health Plans Schools Based Health Centers to reduce exacerbation of asthma symptoms and improve medication adherence through individual asthma education sessions.



**Toolkits**

[The Community Guide—Asthma](#)

Provides information and resources to inspect for and reduce triggers in homes of asthmatics and links to resources for asthma control.



**Clinician Guidelines**

[AHRQ Evidence Report on Diagnosis and Management of Work-Related Asthma](#)

Literature review of methods to diagnose Work-Related Asthma and associated management strategies.



[AHRQ Evidence Report on Exercise Induced Asthma](#)

Literature review assessing diagnostic testing and efficacy of pharmacologic management of Exercise Induced Asthma.



[NHLBI Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Asthma](#)

Guidelines for care of Asthma including assessment, patient education, control factors impacting severity, and pharmacologic management.

